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**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/665,494

Applicant(s)

KAWASUMI ET AL.

Examiner

Susan S. Lee

Art Unit

2852

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 6/9/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22,24-33,35 and 37-39.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

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|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>See Continuation Sheet (below)</u>     |

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for allowance of claims 1-20 is the inclusion of at one process cartridge below a transfer belt, the at least one process cartridge comprising a casing including a flexible sheet in contact with an image carrier surface and arranged to separate a brush roller from the charging member; and an exposure device below the at least one process cartridge. This is found in all of claims 1-20, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 21, 22, and 24-32 is the inclusion of a process cartridge having a casing including a flexible sheet in contact with the image carrier surface and arranged to separate the brush roller from the charging member. The flexible sheet comprises urethane resin. This is found in all of claims 21, 22, and 24-32, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 33 and 38 is the inclusion of a method of cleaning positively charged residual toner from the surface of rotating image carrier with a brush roller charged with negative charge; grounding the charging roller; cleaning the brush roller by applying a positive charge to the brush roller so that collected toner is transferred from the brush roller to the surface of a rotating image carrier; and collecting onto the developing roller the toner transferred from the brush roller. This is found in all of claims 33 and 38, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 35 and 37 is the inclusion of a means for cleaning positively charged residual toner from the surface of rotating image carrier with a brush roller charged with negative charge; means for grounding the charging roller; means for cleaning the brush roller by applying a positive charge to the brush roller so that collected toner is transferred from the brush roller to the surface of a rotating image carrier; and means for collecting onto the developing roller the toner transferred from the brush roller. This is found in all of claims 35 and 37, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.


The primary reason for allowance of claim 39 is the inclusion of a casing in an image process cartridge. The casing includes a sheet comprising urethane resin in contact with an image carrier surface and arranged to separate the brush roller from the charging member. This is found in all of claim 39, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan S. Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-2137. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri., 10:30-8:00, Second Monday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Art Grimley can be reached on 571-272-2136 or 571-272-2800 (Ext. 52). The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Susan S. Lee  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2852

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